

REMARKS**Specification Objections**

Page 11 has been corrected as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner also stated that the disclosure was objected to because it contains an “embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code”.

Clarification regarding the particular page and line number of such objected to disclosure is respectfully requested.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards (or Applicants regard) as the invention.

These claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-9, 13-14, 21-24, 26-30 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmquist et al. ('196) in view of Song et al. ('565).

Various dependent claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmquist et al. ('196) in view of Song et al. as applied to claims above, in view of additional references.

The examiner acknowledges that Palmquist et al. does not describe a continuous process and that Palmquist et al. does not teach combining the coated particles with second particles by means of a disc. The Examiner stated that Song et al. discloses a continuous process for coating

particles including use of a rotating member further being a disc (citing Fig. 2, col 5, lines 25-42).

The Applicants submits that the present application has three independent claims, i.e. claims 1, 25 and 27.

Claim 1 recites, “A method of making retroreflective elements comprising:
providing a plurality of core particles;
coating the particles with an unsolidified polymeric composition forming coated particles;
combining the coated particles with optical elements in a continuous process such that optical elements are embedded in the unsolidified polymeric composition; and
solidifying the polymeric composition forming retroreflective elements.”

Fig. 2, col 5, lines 25-42 of Song et al. recites as follows:

“In use, the feeder 26 feeds the first material 28 through the first member 12. The first material 28 falls through the top opening 22 of the first member 12, through the interior 30 of the first member 12 possibly aided by downward air currents which are created by the spinning disk 16. At the same time, the molten material 42 is sprayed through the spray nozzle 36 into an interior 50 of the second member 32. As illustrated, the nozzle 36 sprays the material toward the disk.

The first material 28 as it is fed thereby falls through a cloud or spray of molten atomizing encapsulate second material 42 which is pumped through the spray nozzle 36. The particles of the first material 28 are thereby encapsulated by the second material 42 on the spinning disk 16. The resultant coated particles 52 then, due to centrifugal force, will be urged towards the edge 54 of the spinning disk 16 where they can be captured as they fall therefrom as is known in the art.”

Although Song et al. teaches “coating particles with an unsolidified polymeric composition forming coated particles”, Song et al. fails to teach “combining the coated particles

with optical elements in a continuous process such that optical elements are embedded in the unsolidified polymeric composition.”

With respect to independent claims 26 and 30, Song et al. also fails to teach “combining the coated particles with second particles by means of a device comprising at least one rotating mixing member selected from the group consisting of a disc, a screw, co-rotating blades, counter-rotating blades, and a grinding plate, such that second particles are embedded in the unsolidified polymeric composition.”

The Applicant submits that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established since the combination of Palmquist et al. ('196) in view of Song et al. ('565) fails to teach all the claim limitations. Reconsideration and a timely allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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